

CHAPTER 12  
CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY  
[Rules 12.1 to 12.11 appeared as 4.5 prior to 6/27/79]  
[Prior to 4/20/88, see Public Safety Department[680] Ch 12]

**661—12.1(17A,691) Criminalistics laboratory.** The laboratory, also referred to as the BCI lab, may examine substances submitted by law enforcement and other government officials when there is reason to suspect criminal activity or for official purposes. Such examination is to determine if a crime has been committed, if the substance can help identify the offender or establish a suspect was not the offender. The laboratory's mobile units may provide crime scene analysis and evidence collection capability.

**661—12.2(17A,691) Laboratory capabilities.** The laboratory is capable of and equipped to perform analysis as follows:

- Physiological fluids.
  - Hairs, fibers and other trace evidence.
  - Comparative microscopy.
  - Wet chemistry.
  - Instrumental analysis.
  - Document examination, writings, typewriting.
  - Photography.
  - Latent prints.
  - Firearms identification.
  - Crime scene services.
  - Any other analysis necessary for a full-service forensic laboratory.
- The following is a list of BCI laboratory sections and their capabilities.
- Blood alcohol section analysis
1. Breath alcohol.
  2. Blood alcohol.
  3. Urine alcohol.
- Chemistry physics section analysis
1. Paint.
  2. Glass.
  3. Soil.
  4. Plastic.
  5. Petroleum products.
  6. Construction materials.
  7. Safe wall insulation.
  8. Metal.
  9. Explosives and explosive residues.
  10. Unusual physical trace materials.
  11. Fracture matching.
  12. Alcoholic beverage analysis.
- Crime scene section
1. Crime scene search, collection and preservation.
  2. Photography of crime scenes.
  3. Postmortem—photograph and sample preservation.
  4. Surveillance photography assistance.
  5. Special technique assistance such as soft X-ray analysis and metal detection.
- Document section

1. Handwriting comparison and analysis.
2. Typewriter comparison and analysis.
3. Typewriter identification.
4. Printed impression analysis and comparison.
5. Ink comparison.
6. Paper comparison.
7. Embossed writing examination.
8. Overwriting analysis.
9. Document authentication.
10. Other document analysis.

#### Drug section analysis

1. Schedule I controlled substances.
2. Schedule II controlled substances.
3. Schedule III controlled substances.
4. Schedule IV controlled substances.
5. Schedule V controlled substances.
6. Prescription drugs.
7. Nonprescription drugs, drug excipients and diluents.
8. Natural product drugs such as THC and mescaline.
9. Drug paraphernalia analysis.
10. Drug usage information.
11. Clandestine laboratory investigation.
12. Heroin quantitation.
13. Other drug quantitation by special request.

#### Firearm identification section

1. Test firings.
2. Firearm operation tests.
3. Bullet comparisons.
4. Shell casing comparisons.
5. Firearm discharge residue determination.
6. Firearm classification and general information.
7. Firearm maintenance for Iowa BCI.
8. Gunshot wound interpretation.
9. Distance determination.
10. Firearm investigative information analysis.
11. Other firearms data and reference file.

#### Identification section

1. Fingerprint comparisons.
2. Footwear impression identification and comparison.
3. Tire tread impression identification and comparison.
4. Serial number restoration.
5. Palm prints and footprints.
6. Other types of latent impressions such as lip print.

#### Microanalysis section

1. Blood identification.
2. Semen identification.
3. Other body fluid identification.
4. Excreta identification.
5. Species identification of 1. through 4.
6. Blood grouping of 1. through 4.

7. Human hair identification and comparison.
8. Human hair ethnic group identification.
9. Animal hair identification and comparison.
10. Fiber identification and comparison (synthetic and natural).
11. Comparative microscopy.
12. Tear matching.
13. Bone examination.
14. Fracture matching.
15. Blood grouping research.

Photography section

1. Crime scene photography.
2. Evidence photography.
3. Special problem photography such as infrared and ultraviolet.
4. Identification card photography.
5. Training slides and artwork.
6. Government service photography.
7. Surveillance photography.
8. Processing and printing of all BCI photographic materials.
9. Photographic support for local law enforcement agencies.

Toolmark section analysis

1. Toolmark identification.
2. Toolmark comparison.
3. Toolmark interpretation.
4. Fracture matching.
5. Comparative microscopy.

Toxicology section analysis

1. Analysis of body fluids and tissues for controlled substances.
2. Examination of body fluids and tissues for prescription drugs.
3. Examination of body fluids and tissues for common nonprescription compounds such as: aspirin, nicotine, caffeine, carbon monoxide, etc.
4. Examination of foodstuffs for controlled substances or poisons.
5. Examination of 1. through 4. above for poisons (organic).
6. Examination of 1. through 4. above for heavy metal poisons or contaminants.
7. Interpretation of toxicology data.
8. Quantitation of toxicological findings.

**661—12.3(17A,691) Evidence packaging.** Evidence submitted to the laboratory which is not personally delivered shall be packaged in such a manner that it can be determined by the laboratory that the package has not been opened while in transit. If the laboratory receives an unsealed or damaged package, the laboratory may refuse to process such evidence; the evidence may be processed when the submitting authority provides the laboratory with appropriate assurances that the contents are the same that the submitting authority forwarded.

**661—12.4(17A,691) Evidence submission to the laboratory.** Evidence may be submitted to the department's criminalistics laboratory via regular, certified, or registered mail or hand delivery. Evidence will be received by an evidence technician. When received by an evidence technician, a package may be opened by the evidence technician. The evidence technician will mark the evidence and take the evidence into laboratory custody. The evidence technician will inventory the evidence and see that the evidence receives proper care, custody, security and circulation to appropriate laboratory section(s) and analyst(s). The evidence technician shall deliver to the laboratory analyst evidence in the

same condition in which it was received, except that it may be marked for laboratory purposes. A laboratory analyst may perform any of the duties of an evidence technician.

**661—12.5(17A,691) Return of evidence.** Evidence will be returned to the submitting authority unless the examiner deems it necessary and reasonable to retain custody.

**661—12.6(17A,691) Distribution of reports.** Four or more original reports will be prepared. One copy will remain with the laboratory file, one copy will be mailed to the submitting authority and two copies will be mailed to the county attorney of the respective county. Copies may also be sent to a county or the state medical examiner. In the event this procedure is not satisfactory to the submitting authority, special arrangements may be made. Results of laboratory analysis cannot be made available to any unauthorized person or organization. Laboratory results may be provided to governmental agencies for statistical purposes.

**661—12.7(17A,691) Evidence submission to experts for the defense.** Evidence will not be transferred or submitted to other experts without a proper court order. Evidence which will be presented to experts examining it for the defense will be packaged and transferred in a manner prescribed by the laboratory at the laboratory. It will be the responsibility of the defense witness to maintain the witness's own security, instrumentation examination facilities and custodial chain. In the event that a sample of evidence is so small that it is consumed on analysis, the court will be so notified in writing. In the event that a sample of evidence is so small that giving the defense a sample would leave the laboratory with no sample, the court will be informed of this fact in writing.

**661—12.8(17A,691) Report form.** A report issued by the laboratory is on a form providing the following information, if known:

- a. Names.
- b. Dates.
- c. Submitting agency.
- d. All case numbers.
- e. Type of crime.
- f. A copy of Iowa Code section 691.2.
- g. The findings of the examining person and the examining person's signature.
- h. A receipt form itemizing all the evidence and all the pertinent data involving the laboratory portion of the custodial chain including: names, times, dates, submitting and handling persons.

This report form may be supplemented with necessary extra pages.

**661—12.9(17A,691) Receipt forms.** A receipt of evidence form is completed upon receiving materials for examination. This receipt form includes spaces for all the pertinent data of the case and should be made out in duplicate. One copy of the receipt form will be returned to the submitting authority. The second copy will remain with the laboratory file documenting the laboratory's activities.

**661—12.10(17A,691) Statistics and records.** The laboratory will compile and maintain data about the number and types of cases it handles and other information about caseload.

**661—12.11(17A,691) Destruction of evidence.** Whenever the laboratory is notified that evidence that has been submitted is no longer needed and that the submitting authority does not and will not want it returned, the laboratory may destroy, preserve for use as standard reference materials or dispose of the evidence. Such disposal will comply with the state's laws and rules regarding disposal of state property.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 691.3.

[Filed 6/30/75]

[Filed 4/12/76, Notice 3/8/76—published 5/3/76, effective 6/7/76]

[Filed emergency 6/4/76—published 6/28/76, effective 6/4/76]

[Filed 2/28/78, Notice 1/11/78—published 3/22/78, effective 4/26/78]

[Filed emergency 1/25/79—published 2/21/79, effective 1/25/79]

[Filed 6/7/79, Notice 5/2/79—published 6/27/79, effective 8/2/79]

[Filed 4/1/88, Notice 9/23/87—published 4/20/88, effective 5/25/88]